Can't Back LBJ, Gen. Gavin Says

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Retired Lt. Gen. James M. Gavin, a former United States ambassador to France, has resigned from the Massachusetts Democratic Advisory Council because "I strongly oppose the Vietnam involvement and so I simply cannot support President Johnson for reelection in 1968."

The council of leading business and professional people was created in January to advice Democratic state legislators on policy and programs.

"Obviously, anyone on that council should be ready to support President Johnson," Gavin said in an interview last night.

Gavin, a former top planner at the Pentagon, said, "Vietnam is the hard-core problem. But there is much more to it."

"Obviously, our domestic programs are grossly underfunded—especially in the poverty area," he said. "And I look on this as a consequence of the Vietnam war, of the money we're pouring in there."

Gavin said he sent his resignation by letter to state Democratic Chairman Lester Hyman. He said he listed "business pressures" as his official reason.

Gavin, 60, is chief executive officer of Arthur D. Little Inc., a research firm in Cambridge. He retired from the Army in 1958 and was appointed ambassador to France in 1961 by the late President John F. Kennedy.

Gavin was one of 16 persons appointed to the council, which was organized at urging of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass.

Gavin said he discussed the resignation with Kennedy before sending the letter to Hyman.